

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Ex. Comm. hears challenge funds report

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), during its meeting March 5 at the Baptist Building in Jackson, received information on the disbursement of the challenge portion of the 2000 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget and elected a new director of church-minister relations.

Receipts for the challenge portion of the 2000 CP, which represent the amount given by Mississippi Baptists above budgetary needs, totaled \$844,089. The funds were distributed according to a formula adopted by messengers to the 1999 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention:

- 50% to Christian education: \$422,044.
- 30% to international missions: \$253,227.
- 10% to North American missions: \$84,409.

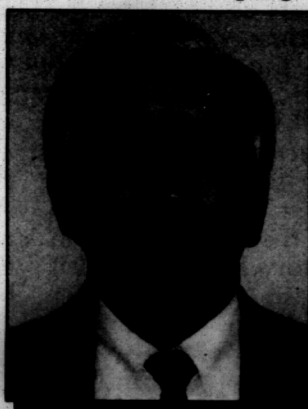
The Christian education portion of the challenge funds was presented to the three Mississippi Baptist colleges — William Carey College in Hattiesburg (\$152,788), Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain (\$73,136), and Mississippi College in Clinton (\$196,100) — at the January meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission.

The colleges received their shares of the funds based on a student enrollment formula designed by the education commission.

The executive committee accepted the recommendation of MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral that the other challenge fund categories be utilized to support:

- International missions — partnership efforts in the Mid-Americas (Central America) and Ukraine.

- North American missions — partnership efforts in Maryland and Delaware.
- Mississippi missions — designate \$77,450 for statewide partnership support, and \$6,959 for a statewide media campaign.



Harmon

The executive committee also elected Frank Harmon, 55, pastor of First Church, Newton, to replace Louis Smith, who has announced his retirement from the position of MBCB director of church-minister relations.

The church-minister relations department assists churches in the process of pastor and staff searches, helps support pastors and church staff members who have been force-terminated, and provides counsel to churches in crisis.

The department also houses Robin Nichols, the state representative for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church ministries, said a check of Harmon's references revealed his "strong character, ability to resolve problems, and exceptional relational and administrative skills. These traits are paramount to the work of the church-minister relations department."

A native of Meridian, Harmon has pastored Daleville Church, Daleville (1966-69); Mt. Olive Church, Meridian (1969-76); Magnolia Street Church, Laurel (1976-79); First Church, Purvis (1979-83); and First Church, Newton (1983-2001).

Harmon has served as chairman of the MBCB executive committee, chairman of the MBCB personnel and policy committee, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist

Education Commission, trustee for the Annuity Board, and chairman of the Annuity Board's relief committee.

He has also served as a trustee of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., adjunct professor at Mississippi College, and contract teacher at New Orleans Seminary.

He holds degrees from Mississippi College (BA '68) and New Orleans Seminary (Th.M. '71, D.Min. '75).

Harmon and his wife Nancy are the parents of two adult children.

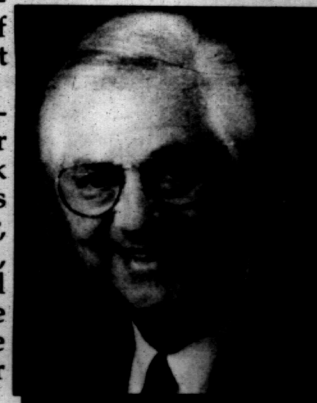
"I am looking forward with great anticipation to working with the pastors and churches of our state. It is both exciting and humbling to consider the responsibilities of this position," Harmon said.

In other business, the executive committee heard a report from Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Church, Columbia, and chairman of the church revitalization committee mandated by messengers to the 2000 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention with studying the future of churches located in transitional communities.

The executive committee also congratulated VanHorn, who is a member of the executive committee, on his move from MBCB vice-president to president, replacing Gary Richardson, who recently accepted a call to the pastorate of North Oxford Church, Oxford.

Richardson represented Clay Association while serving as pastor of First Church, West Point, and his move made him ineligible to serve on the convention board.

The executive committee approved the appointment of David Sapp, pastor of Silva Rena Church, Water Valley, to fill the unexpired term of Donnie Stewart, who resigned his position as the Yalobusha Association representative on the convention board.



Smith

Miss. CP stays above \$2M

Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) gifts to the work of the Lord for the month of February remained slightly above the \$2 million level after posting an all-time record in January, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. February CP gifts were \$2,175,059, or 52.51% above the \$1,424,133 given the previous month, and 12.36% above the \$1,934,471 given in the same period the past fiscal year. The record amount in January, CP giving topped the record \$30,047,997 budget set by messengers to the 2001 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. CP giving so far this year is also 5.9% above last year's giving for the same period. February also marked seventh consecutive month that CP giving has topped \$2 million. Mississippi CP helps fund such programs as the Electronic Keyboard Workshop March 16 at the Baptist Building in Jackson; the Cultural Awareness seminar March 27 at Mt. Olive Church, Hattiesburg; and the Young Pastor's Retreat March 29-30 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

SBC CP posts 11% increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) in February was 11.14% above the total for February 2000, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. A total of \$15,710,332.83 was received in February to support Southern Baptist CP missions and ministries globally and across North America, more than \$1.5 million above the \$14,134,923.83 received in February 2000. For the fiscal year to date, October 2000 through February 2001, CP giving is 2.39% ahead of the same period a year ago. \$24,925,221.15 compared to \$73,179,448.15. In designated giving during February, the total of \$49,312,260.15 was 7.30% above February 2000's \$45,957,182.84. For the fiscal year to date, designated giving is 1.50% below last year's pace, \$78,836,353.87 as compared to \$80,032,998.49. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date receipts are \$4,926,731.81, above the budgeted \$69,998,493.75, or 107.0% of budget. The monthly receipts showed the \$15,710,332.83 received as 112.22% above the budgeted amount of \$13,999,698.75.

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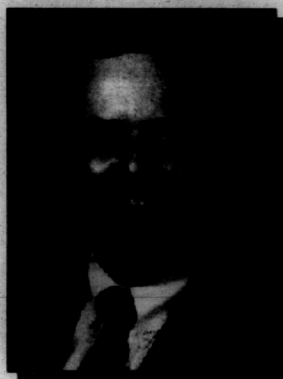
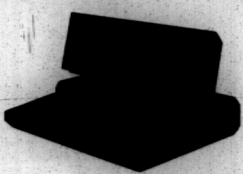
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The power of symbols

Will Mississippians vote to change their state flag? The issue has certainly evoked strong feelings since the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled that an oversight during the drafting of the 1890 Constitution left us without a legally-recognized banner for lo these many years.

The point of contention over the flag we now use is the Cross of St. Andrew in the upper left-hand corner (called the canton).

The Cross of St. Andrew, of course, was used by some Confederate forces during the United States' devastating war against itself nearly a century and a half ago.

Since that time, the symbol has been used to honor the sacrifice of those who fought the Civil War, and also to terrify and intimidate a significant segment of the American population.

A commission appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove and chaired by former Governor William Winter was charged with holding public hearings around the state and issuing a report on the future of the state flag, ranging from retention of the unofficial flag to recommending a new flag.

The process was a sad commentary on the state of civility and public discourse in Mississippi. The commission is to be congratulated for coming up with a recommendation.

That recommendation, as we all know by now, is to adopt a

newly-designed flag that the commission members understood would not please everyone but would offer the state an opportunity to start afresh with a symbol not so heavily burdened by history.

Long before the rise of the Third Reich in Germany between the World Wars, the swastika was viewed as a harmless representation of everything from good luck in the early 1900's, to the Hindu god Ganesha, where it has been imprinted on the elephant-like creature's palm for thousands of years as a sign of good fortune.

Due to the Nazi's adoption of this innocent symbol for their evil purposes, however, the swastika now breeds universal revulsion and disgust. Its connection with one of the vilest periods in human history has rendered it inappropriate for any other purpose.

The Mississippi state flag and the Cross of St. Andrew contained in that flag are not in the same class as the Nazi use of the swastika — not even close — and the analogy is not meant to offend anyone who believes the flag represents the sacrifice and dedication of their ancestors to a noble cause.

The fact remains, however, that a significant number of Mississippians view the flag as a



This postcard, copyright 1907 by E. Phillips, a U.S. card publisher, speaks for the universally high regard in which the swastika was held as a good luck token before use by the Nazis corrupted its meaning. (Text and postcard reproduction courtesy of <http://www.luckymojo.com/swastika.html>)

symbol of hatred, oppression, and racism. Sadly, the misappropriation of the Cross of St. Andrew by hate groups bent on murder and mayhem has given many Mississippians reason to believe that's what the symbol — and by extension, the state flag and the state itself — represent.

Most of us know that nothing could be farther from the truth, but could our stubborn refusal to consider other people's viewpoints on the state flag actually harm our Christian witness?

As always, the Bible holds the answer. Read 1 Cor. 8 and Rom. 14, and then decide for yourself if this flag issue has become a stumbling block to the work of the Lord. If you need

help understanding how these powerful chapters relate to the issue at hand, ask your pastor.

As the April referendum draws near and the voices of irrationality on both sides rage on, may Christians be reminded that only one symbol counts for eternity — the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Does God care which flag flies over the State of Mississippi? Probably not as much as some of us like to think. Does God care about our relationships with other people — fellow believers and the lost alike? Count on it.

It is the latter, not the former, for which we will one day be held accountable.

IN MY VIEW:



Changing the culture of addiction

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

Numbers have dehumanized us. Here's the proof: read the following statistics, and while you're reading gauge your emotional response.

- an estimated 14.8 million Americans used illicit drugs in 1999.
- 10.9% of youth, ages 12-17, reported using illicit drugs in 1999.
- an estimated 66.8 million Americans used tobacco in 1999, equal to 30.2% of the U.S. population 12 years old and older.
- 105 million Americans age 12 and older used alcohol in 1999. 10.4 million were 12-20 years old.
- 20% of teen addicts have shared drugs with their parents.
- nearly two-thirds of all students will have tried marijuana before finishing high school.

Now, how are you feeling?

Chances are, your response is something like, "That's too bad." We've heard all these numbers before, and while we can easily acknowledge the tragedy of these facts, we still remain passive — unless these numbers represent us or someone we love. Then it's personal, and our grief knows whole new dimensions. The pain comes home to roost.

During all my years as a youth minister, I was seldom naive concerning the behavior of my youth group. I always had some fine, godly kids; some kids who were experimenting with drugs and alcohol; and a handful of kids who were heavily involved in substance abuse — typically alcohol.



Some years ago, I counseled with a mother and father who were struggling with a wayward daughter. Their daughter — their only child — had gotten involved with a toxic boy and began drinking. What began as a move on her part to be socially accepted had escalated to full-fledged addiction.

In attempting to counsel this family, I learned that the parents were committed Christian folks. They were consistent in church attendance. They had never had tobacco or alcohol in their home. It seemed to be the ideal Christian home.

Then, in a private conversation one afternoon with the daughter, she blurted out, "My folks don't like the preacher or anyone else on the church staff. They talk about y'all all the time."

I wasn't sure what to do with that information, or whether it had any bearing on her alcoholism. I did wonder, though, if Satan had used that one seemingly small issue as a gateway into that home. Had the parent's attitude manifested itself in their daughter's life through alcohol abuse?

In our families and among our peers, we best serve God and society by being authentic Christians. We project our heart's condition into the world around us. We fool no one; our kids see us, the world sees us, and most certainly God sees us. If we are to make any kind of difference in the world, it must begin with us as individuals.

Want to see the culture of addiction change? Change begins in me — and you.

Panel examining Indonesian persecution

WASHINGTON (BP) — Sharply different perspectives on religious persecution in Indonesia have been laid before the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

After witnesses testified in Washington about conditions in the country, experts recommended possible actions the United States could take to end religious persecution there.

A Christian professor and a Muslim leader from Indonesia shared their opinions as to the cause and severity of the conflict in the Maluku Islands of Indonesia. Fighting between Muslims and Christians erupted in the Maluku Islands in January 1999. More than 4,000 people have been killed and as many as 500,000 people displaced since then.

A weak government that is Islamic-friendly, influence from outside jihad warriors and ideological clashes among Muslims and Christians have flamed the current religious fighting, said John Titaley, a professor at Satya Wacana Christian University in Salatiga, Indonesia.

"The emergence of religious feelings which have encouraged the slaughtering of pastors and the burning down of church buildings ... are seen as systematic attempts to eliminate historical records of Christianity in Maluku and Ambon in particular," Titaley said.

Showing photographs of victims he has interviewed, Titaley told the commissioners about

Some witnesses said they wanted the government to pressure Indonesia's military to actually keep the peace, while other panelists said the government is too weak to control the military.

Ely made a plea to nongovernmental organizations.

"Please don't support my people with food every month because my people become lazy and they only want to get help and not work," he said.

"Please, help my people with the equipment, with the materials, then they can do their jobs and they can find money. When we get them jobs they will forget about what happened before."

Abrams also asked the witnesses if they knew about fighters, money, or weapons pouring into the conflict from outside Indonesia.

"Me, I am a leader in the Muslim community and I am a commander of task squads that joined the first episodes of the Maluku conflict," Ely said. "We never got money or funds from outside of the country."

But Titaley said friends who are fighting on the field have reported seeing non-Indonesians fighting with the Muslim jihad paramilitary fighters. In addition, many people from outside Indonesia are flooding airports as they arrive to join the conflict.

One panelist suggested funding for the conflict is coming from the Middle East.

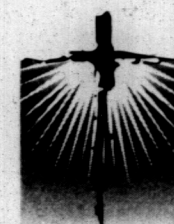
"There are reports in Muslim communities that there has been a significant inflow of financial support from the Middle East, in particular from non-government segments of Saudi Arabia," said Robert Hefner, a professor of anthropology at Boston University. "This has

raised the question of whether [terrorist financier] Osama bin Laden is implicated."

Hefner advised against assigning significant responsibility for the fighting to bin Laden, other than acknowledging evidence that bin Laden has helped transfer funds and armaments to segments of the nationally organized Laskar jihad.

A panel of four experts on the Indonesian situation recommended several steps the United States could take to resolve the conflict. Most of the panelists agreed against sending peacekeeping troops and advocated using nongovernmental organizations that did not have religious ties.

"I think [the conflict] is so polarized now that in fact [religious entities] would almost



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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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certainly exacerbate things," said Sidney Jones of Human Rights Watch. "It might work if it were an Indonesian organization that was faith-based but outside organizations, no."

The commissioners are scheduled to release their recommendations in May.



GRIM PROTEST — Christians in Ambon, Indonesia, build mock coffins to use in demonstrations protesting the lack of government protection or response to attacks on Christians in the area. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Adoption credit introduced

WASHINGTON (BP) — Legislation to renew and expand the tax credit for adoption has been introduced in Congress with strong support. The Hope for Children Act, H.R. 622, would double the adoption tax credit to \$10,000. It also would index the credit for inflation and double to \$10,000 the amount of adoption assistance by an employer that may be excluded from an employee's taxable income. The \$5,000 credit for the adoption of non-special needs children and the credit for employer-provided adoption benefits are scheduled to expire this year. For special-needs children, the bill would increase the adoption credit from \$5,000 to a flat \$10,000 that covers one-time and ongoing costs. The special-needs credit is permanent and therefore does not need to be renewed. The bill has 213 cosponsors. "We hope this bill will help unite children with parents and build strong, stable families in our country," said Rep. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., the bill's chief sponsor, in a written statement. The lead House Democratic sponsor is Rep. Jim Oberstar of Minnesota. Sens. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Mary Landrieu, D-La., are the lead sponsors of the legislation. S. 144, in the other house. DeMint was working with now-retired Rep. Tom Bliley, R-Va., of the prior Adoption Awareness Act, which was passed in 1998. That act provided training for adoption counselors so they can give complete information to parents. It also called for studies of the practices of private adoption agencies before and after training in adoption counseling.

Looking back

10 years ago

In what may be a wartime first, the number of professions of faith exceeds the number of U. S. casualties during Operation Desert Storm. At least 1,200 professions of faith were recorded by Southern Baptist chaplains serving in the Persian Gulf.

20 years ago

First Church, Columbia, and First Church, Yazoo City, are recognized at the February meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee as being pace setters in percentage giving to the Cooperative Program.

50 years ago

First Church, Indianola, presents its pastor, David T. Cranford, with a new Ford automobile upon his fifth year of service at the Delta church.

Eng. teachers recruited for Chinese schools

BEIJING (BP) — One hundred Christian English teachers are urgently needed to fill openings in the China Encounter 2001 summer teaching program from July 4 to Aug. 4.

Teams of career teachers or volunteers with extensive teaching experience will be placed in 10 different cities throughout China to work in cooperation with Chinese educators at institutions where friendly relationships have been established.

American teachers willing to help Chinese teachers and university students in language acquisition also will have opportunities to share the love of Christ through relational lifestyle witness. Cross-cultural exchange will take place on many levels as the teachers live on campuses in China and interact with new friends.

The \$2,500 all-inclusive program cost includes international airfare, orientation and debriefing, and all costs in China. Interested parties may contact Fellowship Travel International at 1-800-235-9384 to obtain China Encounter 2001 registration forms. Registration information can also be obtained by writing to eachina@pobox.com.

Mississippi Baptists constructing churches

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Staff Writer

For Bobby Kennedy, one good deed led to another.

Kennedy, a member of Pearl River Church, Wesson, was one of the Mississippi Baptist construction volunteers helping to build a sanctuary earlier this year for Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church at Oma in Lawrence County.

Edward Earl, pastor of China Lee Missionary Baptist Church at Arm, also in Lawrence County, discovered Kennedy working on the Greater Mt. Olive Church and asked for help.

He got it from Kennedy and a number of other Mississippi Baptist construction volunteers.

Earl promised Kennedy if he would lead the volunteers, China Lee Church would provide the materials and participate with the volunteers in building a 6,000-square-foot education and fellowship building.

By utilizing the donated labor of church members and Mississippi Baptist volunteers, the church spent \$113,600 for a building that is insured for \$300,000.

Dedication of the building was held on Dec. 17.

"The Lord blessed us," said Earl. Every materials bid turned out to be lower when it was time to pay the bills, he noted.

"This project confirmed what I'd been teaching," said Earl, "that God will bless you above all your expectations."



VOLUNTEERS — Mississippi Baptists celebrate with members of China Lee Missionary Baptist Church in Lawrence County during the December dedication of the church's new sanctuary, built in part with Mississippi Baptist volunteer construction labor. Among the primary construction volunteers attending the dedication were (back row, from left) Johnnie Williams, China Lee Church pastor Edward Earl, Tri-County associational missions director Archie Herrin, Ira Head, John Williams, (front row, from left) Barbara Williams, Glossie Earl, Archie Ross, and Bobby Kennedy. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Asked if he would rate the results as good, Earl said, "Good needs an adjective."

Kennedy said the hardest part of the year-long project was rounding up Mississippi Baptist volunteers who had not committed to do volunteer mission work elsewhere, due to the fact that Mississippi Baptist construction volunteers are in demand across the Southern Baptist Convention.

The project was coordinated through the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), which helped recruit volunteers.

Kennedy and his wife Dixie are also regular members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, and the couple has volunteered for numerous special Mississippi Baptist projects.

The Kennedys just completed a stint with the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief unit, where scores of Mississippi Baptist volunteers prepared tens of thousands of meals in February for severe weather victims in the hard-hit areas of Columbus and Pontotoc in northeast Mississippi.

A total of five people died in the Pontotoc area in a confirmed tornado touchdown.

"God certainly gifted us when he sent Bobby and Dixie Kennedy our way," said Jim Didlake, director of MBCB Men's Ministry Department.

"Not only has Bobby been instrumental in the construction of several African-American

churches, he also helps with World Changers (summer youth construction projects) and any other need that arises.

"He not only is always ready to help, but also does it with a smile and the Spirit of Christ," Didlake said.

"I love to do God's work," said Kennedy. "When I had my heart attack in 1989, God gave me another chance. He just fixed it so I could go to work for him."

Editor's note: To participate in volunteer construction missions and other Mississippi Baptist volunteer projects, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3335, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

BRAVOS FOR BIVOS

All across Mississippi there are churches being served by wonderful men who are bivocational. Generally, the term bivocational refers to the fact that these men work at one job in order to supplement their income to enable them to serve at a church.

These are not people who serve our churches on the side; instead, these are people who serve our churches and work on the side! About 40% of the churches in our Mississippi Baptist Convention are unable to support a pastor full-time; so, with the church's help, and with the pastor working to help himself, a ministry is provided.

These "bivos" come in all shapes and sizes, and they come with a variety of combinations to help provide a living. There are preacher/lawyers, preacher/doctors, preacher/teachers, preacher/mechanics, preacher/insurance agents, preacher/law enforcement personnel, preacher/carpenters (if I recall correctly, our Lord Jesus may have been one

of these), and many other combinations, I am sure. These are some wonderful men and I do not know what we would do without them.

Dale Holloway, one of our Convention vice-presidents, is a bivocational pastor. As he has served in his work, his pastorate, and preaching, he has also served the Convention with grace and effectiveness. I did not know of Dale's "other job" for many years. I only knew of him preaching, pastoring, and serving with great effectiveness.

Occasionally, I have had one of our bivocational preachers express some feelings of inferiority because they may not have the time to be at all of our Baptist meetings or they feel

their training is not up to that of a full-time pastor. In reality, it is probably some of the rest of us who need to feel a sense of inferiority, especially when you recognize what these men do, the hours they give, and the love they show, extending far beyond just normal activities and stretching them in both life and ministry.

Most of these men work a fulltime job and then find time and energy to study and prepare sermons, visit and care for the people, witness to lost souls, visit in the hospitals, perform weddings and funerals, counsel people, and also have a family life. To all of our bivocational pastors I want to say a huge **Thank you!**

Thank you, for the sacrifices

you make as you are stretched between two vocations.

Thank you, for being sensitive to God's call when you are already involved in meaningful work.

Thank you, for helping supplement your livelihood when our churches have been unable.

Thank you, for finding a way to make some hours and days available in order for you to participate in associational and state-wide activities.

Thank you, for the beautiful way that you fill two jobs when some of us don't have the energy to take care of one.

Thank you, for preaching so effectively and leading so caringly that most of your church members hardly think about you in terms of your daily job, but are only able to see you in that special high calling of pastor.

Thank you to the churches, who recognize the gifts and dedication of these pastors and support them as they lead.

To all of our "bivos" across the state, Mississippi Baptists raise a collective **"BRAVO!"** and may God richly bless you!

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Former Mississippian honored at SWBTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — When the newest academic chair at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) — the \$1-million Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting — was inaugurated, the event prompted attention to the passions of a retired professor, a current professor, and a deceased graduate who made it all possible.

A. Joseph King, Southwestern professor of conducting and associate dean of the school's performance division, was installed as the first occupant of the academic position, named for Burton, his former professor and former minister of music at First Church, Brookhaven.

Donations by Kathryn Sullivan Bowld, an alumnus who died in June, made the chair possible.

The ceremonies and luncheon that followed were filled with stories about King, Burton, and Bowld and how their lives and ministries intertwined.

The honor of being named to the chair, which King called the highest he could receive in his career, was made even more special because Burton over the years has been his teacher, mentor, friend, and colleague, King said.

"It has been a great privilege to know him and work with him for over 43 years," King said. "I consider him one of my dearest friends."

King thanked Burton, his family, the seminary, and his students, noting that his students "are the ones that keep me excited about teaching."

His emphasis on students and other people was noted as a mark of King's ministry by Preston Bright, former adjunct professor of pastoral ministries at Southwestern.

Bright said King's "influence is literally heard around the world" through his students' ministries.



NEW CHAIR OCCUPIED — Former Mississippi music minister Robert L. Burton (left) congratulates A. Joseph King, Southwestern Seminary professor of conducting, upon King's assumption of the new Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting at the seminary. Burton was King's professor and mentor during the latter's days as a student at Southwestern. (BP photo by Bryan Murley)

Elizabeth McKinney, associate professor of piano emeritus, called King a "Christian gentleman" and an optimist who always has a good word.

With his abilities as both a minister and musician, King "epitomizes what it means to be a minister of music," Bright said.

"Music is far more than knowledge to Dr. King," Bright said. "He has the capacity to touch the soul of musicians and the person in the pews." He gives his best, and they return with the best they can, Bright continued. In all that King does, Bright said, "he communicates that he cares."

King received his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Baptist University,

Shawnee, Okla. He was the first to receive a master's and doctorate in conducting from Southwestern. Burton was his major professor.

For 16 years, King served as music minister at University Church in Fort Worth, establishing a multiple choir program that became a model for other music ministers. At Southwestern since 1976, King has established the seminary's handbell choir, wind ensemble, and instrumental concentration in the school of church music curriculum.

Jack Coldiron, distinguished professor of voice emeritus at Southwestern and former student of Burton, remembered the distinguished professor of conducting emeritus as "a formidable teacher of conducting."

Coldiron recalled that during conducting class, Burton would, with a wry smile, sit at the piano or keyboard and intentionally play the wrong key or pitch to test the student conducting at the time.

But Coldiron also remembered Burton as a consummate musician and conductor, inspirational teacher, motivator, and a splendid colleague and friend.

Burton could take the most difficult score to interpret and move an audience, overcoming challenges such as the lack of female voices at the seminary, amateur musicians, lack of rehearsal time, and poor venues for singing, Coldiron said.

"He did not settle for mediocrity," Coldiron added.

During his 34 years at Southwestern, he chaired the music education and conducting departments, directed the Southwestern Singers and conducted the Oratorio Chorus in addition to his seminary teaching duties.

BWA v.p. — India devastation is 'just unbearable'

WASHINGTON (BP) — "One could write many things, but it is just unbearable to see," Zac Patnaik, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), wrote in an e-mail letter after seeing the devastation from the January earthquake in the state of Gujarat, the richest state of India.

"Such mass destruction I have never seen even in the movies of World War II."

South Korean pastor Billy Kim, president of the BWA, has written to Bonny Resu, executive secretary for the Asian Baptist Federation, who lives in Shillong in northeast India, and assured him that the prayers of Baptists are with them for "wisdom, strength, comfort, and opportunities to share the practical love of Jesus at this difficult time." Resu also is on a visit to Gujarat.

Patnaik, in an e-mail received Feb. 20 by the Baptist World Alliance in Washington, wrote that he had learned that more than 1,000 high-rise apartments with at least 10 floors each have collapsed, with two of the floors of almost every building having sunk in the ground, burying thousands. "Within 30 seconds husbands, wives, and children, and other

people perished," he wrote, "and many bodies still lie buried and not recovered."

Patnaik estimated that more than 100,000 people have disappeared from the earthquake. "It is very hard to believe that a tragedy of this magnitude that lasted less than 30 seconds could make 3.5 million people totally dislocated. Of special concern are the more than 5,000 children between the ages of three and 12 who have become orphans and now roam the streets totally confused."

Also among the displaced, Patnaik added, are more than 250 Christian families who were formerly financially comfortable and are now homeless and living on the streets.

Ten churches of several denominations cannot be used for worship anymore, he wrote. The demolition of buildings that have collapsed continues, and the government estimates it will take more than four months and even up to one year to complete the work.

Immediate rehabilitation and restructuring of homes is absolutely necessary for these people, Patnaik said. "I was informed by one of the richest men who was a multimillion-

aire that nearly 5,700 multimillionaires became beggars overnight and were left on the streets to beg. The rich and the poor have found a common place on the streets," he said.

Much prayer is needed for the earthquake victims in Gujarat, Patnaik said. "The only answer I can think for them is not money or buildings, which is absolutely necessary at this state," he said, "but we also need Christians who will share with these people and bring them home to Christ."

In faith, Baptist World Aid has released almost \$50,000 for Indian earthquake relief: \$20,000 has been given to the Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and \$20,000 to the Evangelical Fellowship of India Committee on Relief (EFICOR) for their relief programs. \$5,000 was provided to Hungarian Baptist Aid for relief work carried out alongside their search and rescue activities, and some assistance has been given to local Baptist initiatives.

BWAid Director Paul Montacute has appealed for more funds from the worldwide Baptist family. "We need to be able to respond more ade-

quately to our partners in India. They are trying to achieve such much with so little."

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), meanwhile, has released a total of \$70,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds to help purchase blankets, tents, and food. More funds will be needed as specific relief projects get underway, said Jim Brown, the IMB's human needs consultant, and volunteers also may be needed.

Donations marked for "Indian Earthquake Relief" may be sent to Baptist World Aid, Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101; phone, (703) 790-8980; fax, (703) 790-5719; E-mail, BWAid@bwanet.org. A U.S. tax receipt will be issued.

Donations to the BWA relief effort also may be made by Visa or MasterCard in U.S. dollars. State the gift amount; card number; expiration date; signature of donor; and name as it appears on credit card. Credit card donations also may be made by telephone.

Contributions toward the IMB relief efforts, meanwhile, can be sent to: International Mission Board, General Relief Fund - India Earthquake, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Group to form new metro Atlanta assoc.

ATLANTA (ABP) — About 50 Atlanta Baptists met Feb. 22 to take initial steps to form a new Baptist association in protest of a January vote by Atlanta Association to retain two churches friendly to gays.

The move comes in response to a controversial vote by the 153-church Atlanta Association against removing two churches known for accepting homosexuals as church members and leaders. The congregations, Virginia Highland Church in Atlanta and Oakhurst Church in Decatur, Ga., earlier were voted out of the Georgia Baptist Convention over the issue.

After the Atlanta Association vote, leaders of both the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist National American Mission Board announced plans to support a new association in the Atlanta area. The new group is expected to be formed by mid-March.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Johnson and Griffith

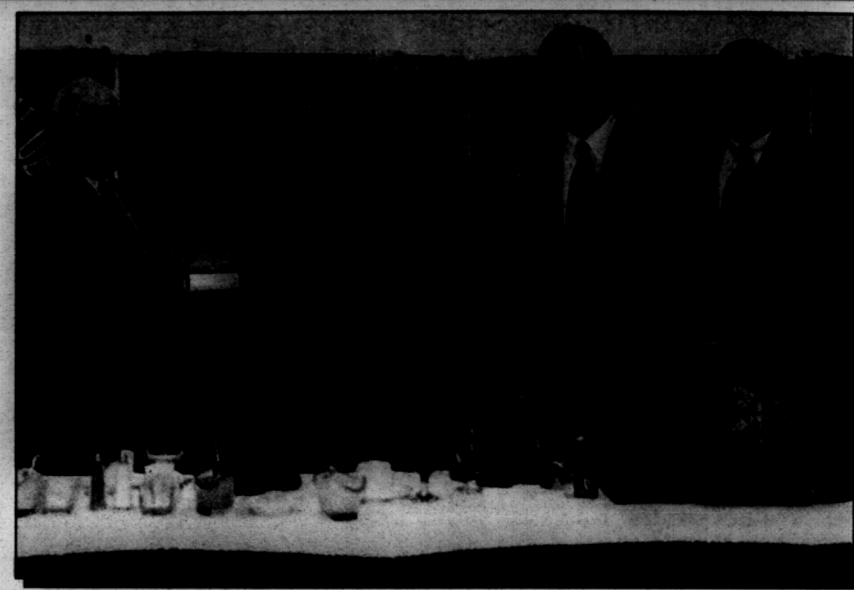
Allen W. Johnson was licensed to the ministry by Mt. Carmel Church, Neshoba County, on Feb. 18. He is available for pulpit supply or a pastorate and can be contacted at (601) 656-2224. Pictured (from left) are Johnson and James E. Griffith, pastor.

Sardis Church, Hazlehurst, will hold pastor ordination service for Ray Quinnelly on March 25 at 3 p.m. A reception will be held following the services. Quinnelly has been called to New Zion Church, Liberty.

T. C. Pinson celebrated his 50 years as an ordained minister on Jan. 14 at Pinckney Church, Union. Pictured with Pinson is his wife Sarah.



The Pinsons



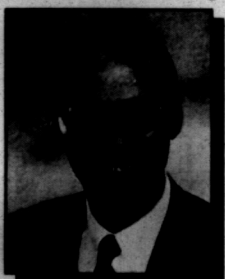
Thomas A. Moak Jr. and Willa Montgomery Moak, members of Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogue Chitto, were recognized as winners of the Brookhaven Exchange Club's organization's annual "Book of Golden Deeds" award on Jan. 26. He is a retired minister of music who ministered at churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Willa Moak is a pianist and retired schoolteacher. The award to the Moaks was in recognition of their community service, which has included ministry to shut-ins, hospice patients, and senior citizens' groups. Pictured (from left) are Jimmy Gillis, Brookhaven Exchange Club; Willa Moak; Thomas A. Moak Jr.; and the Moaks' sons, Thomas A. Moak, III of Seymour, Tenn., and Bill Moak of Madison.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



The GAs and Acteens from Old Union Church, Lee County, learned about World Hunger recently. "After eating a lunch of rice, bread, and water, they took their own money grocery shopping. They then donated their groceries to the Lee County food pantry," said Sherry Kelly, wife of Kenneth Kelly, pastor. Ralph Cain, associate director of Lee County Association, accepted the food and gave the group a tour of the food and clothing pantry. Pictured (from left, front row) are Amber Frederick, Cassie Waycaster, Kelli Spearman, Ruth Anne Watson, Hannah Waycaster, and Megan Rowland; (back row) LeeAnn Wilson, Cain, Farris Watson, and Alison Barber.

Baptist Adult Day Health Services and the counseling ministry of First Church, Jackson, will hold a free seminar for caregivers entitled Securing Your Future: Legal and Financial Issues. The seminar will be held from 9 a.m.-noon on April 7 at First Church, Jackson. Leading the discussion will be Richard Courtney, a Jackson



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attorney specializing in elder law issues. Discussion will include types of care available for seniors, making decisions on living arrangements, preparing for possible incapacitation, and making medical decisions. The seminar will also include discussion about making long-term care decisions, including Medicaid issues. Refreshments will be served at the seminar. The National Association of Social Workers has granted this program approval for .36 Social Work Continuing Education Units (CEU's). To register, call (601) 948-6262 or (800) 948-6262. For more information, call Dixie Myrick at (601) 956-7794; Shane Humphries at (601) 926-1222; or Charles Boudreaux at (601) 949-1949.

Marriage Enrichment Conference will be held at Liberty Church, Flowood,

March 30, 31, and April 1. Sessions are Friday, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8-12 noon; and Sunday morning worship service. The conference leaders are Dale and Jena Forehand. For additional information, call the church office at (601) 992-0345.

The Martins will be concert at Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian, on March 23 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 485-4113.

First Church, Kosciusko, honored its pastor Barry C. Corbett and his family on Feb. 25 with a day of recognition for his ten-year ministry. Corbett is pictured with his wife Denise.



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Partnership Missions projects set for Ukraine

Volunteers are currently being recruited for Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions projects in the Odessa oblast (political subdivision) in Ukraine. The projects include new church starts, Vacation Bible Schools, construction, children's camps, equipping conferences, and ministry teams.

The cost of \$1,315 per person includes round-trip airfare, food, lodging, insurance, in-country travel, and one night's lodging in Vienna, Austria, on the return leg of the trip. Not included is a small health insurance fee required by Ukraine, and meals en route.

Team leaders listed below may be contacted directly. For more information on the Mississippi Baptist partnership missions program, contact the MBCB Partnership Missions Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3398 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 398. E-mail: vfairley@mbcb.org.

• **April 21-May 1;** new church start; Veleka Mehalovka. Contact: Danny Adams, 421 Lone Star Road, Collins, MS 39428. Phone: (601) 765-4172. E-mail: dadams1@netdoor.com. Deadline: February 21.

• **April 21-May 1;** new church start, medical/dental; Kodema. Contact: John McBride, 3005 Hazlewood Road, Knoxville, TN 37921. Phone: (865) 673-9346. E-mail: jbm132@aol.com. Deadline: February 21.

• **April 21-May 1;** new church start; Kotovsk/Balta. Contact: Brent Barker, 1313 Goodwater Road NW, Magee, MS 39111. Phone: (601) 849-2245. E-mail: goodh2o@ayrix.net. Deadline: February 21.

• **May 4-13;** new church start; Lubashevka. Contact: Jack Maroon, P.O. Box 100, Belmont, MS 38827-0100. Phone: (662) 454-3380. E-mail: bfbcb@tsixroads.com. Deadline: March 2.

• **May 4-12;** pastors' conference; Odessa region. Contact: Keith Gordon, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Phone: (601) 292-3307. E-mail: kgordon@mbcb.org. Deadline: March 2.

• **May 19-29;** new church start, medical; Razdelnaia. Contact: Jerry Owen, 2167 Cleary Road, Florence, MS 39073-8848. Phone: (601) 355-2438. E-mail: witness4him1@juno.com. Deadline: March 16.

• **May 19-29;** new church start, medical; Nikolaevka. Contact: Kiely Young, P.O. Box 10254, Gulfport, MS 39505. Phone: (228) 831-9236. E-mail: yg.ent@mciworld.com. Deadline: March 16.

• **May 19-29;** new church start; Savron. Contact: Joe Abel, 406 Ware Street, Carthage, MS 39051. Phone: (601) 267-4342. E-mail: lcba@netdoor.com. Deadline: March 16.

• **May 25-June 3;** Mississippi Singing Churchmen project; Odessa region. Contact: T.R. Darsey, P.O. Box 408, Winona, MS 38967-0408. Phone: (662) 283-4682. Deadline: March 23.

• **June 15-24;** construction; Odessa oblast. Contact: Burke Fisher, 93 Fairview Road, Indianola, MS 38751. Phone: (662) 887-5128. E-mail: brfisher@tecinfo.com. Deadline: April 13.

• **June 15-26;** new church start; Sheriaev. Contact: Ken West, P.O. Box 4511, Greenville, MS 38704. Phone: (662) 335-2862. E-mail: WCBA@tecinfo.com. Deadline: April 13.

• **June 16-30;** youth camp; Odessa oblast. Contact: Twila Windham, Route 2 Box 320-B, Mize, MS 39116. Phone: (601) 733-2242. E-mail: twindham@yahoo.com. Deadline: April 13.

• **June 29-July 10;** new church start; Kodema. Contact: James Harris, 3417 Mound Road NE, Wesson, MS 39191. Phone: (601) 643-8333. E-mail: jharris@colin.cc.ms.us. Deadline: April 25.

• **June 29-July 10;** new church start; Razdelnaia. Contact: Robert Gillis, 324 Viking Drive, Columbus, MS 39702. Phone: (662) 494-9699. E-mail: rgillis@ebicom.net. Deadline: April 25.

• **June 29-July 10;** construction; Sanjeko. Contact: Bill Duncan, 560 Willowbrook Road, Columbus, MS 39701. Phone: (662) 328-6802. E-mail: gtba@tilc.com. Deadline: April 25.

• **July 20-29;** women's ministry conference; Odessa. Contact: Rebecca Williams, 824 Graveline Road, Gautier, MS 39533. Phone: (228) 497-5141. E-mail: brwill@datasync.com. Deadline: May 18.

• **July 27-August 5;** Vacation Bible Schools (three teams with five people per team); Odessa. Contact: Ann Stone, Route 1 Box 359, Mantee, MS 39751. Phone: (662) 456-4440. E-mail: samandann1970@aol.com. Deadline: May 25.

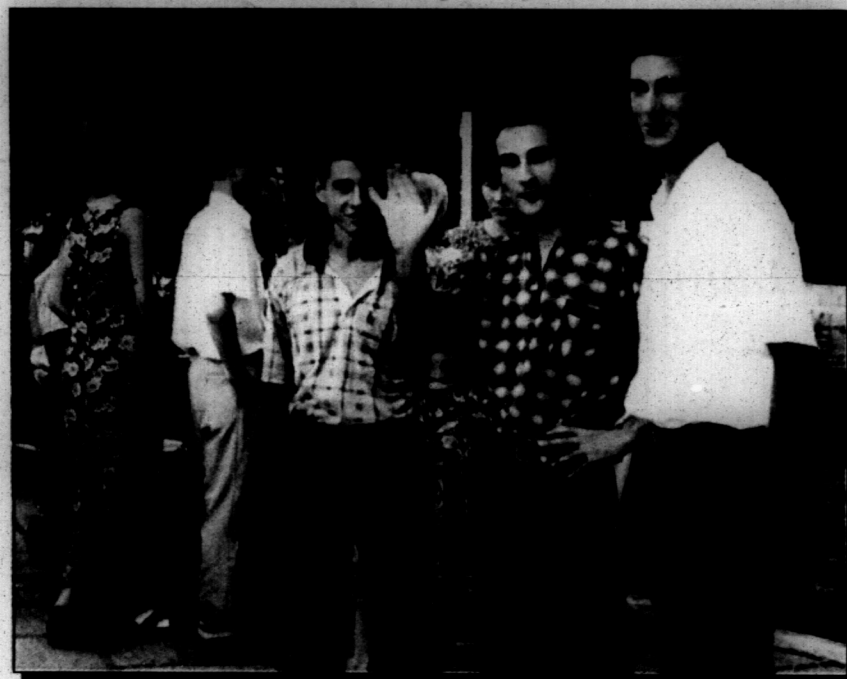
• **July 27-August 5;** new church start; Kodema. Contact: David Patterson, P.O. Box 1434, Hazlehurst, MS 39083-1434. Phone: (601) 894-1776. E-mail: pdavid277@aol.com. Deadline: May 25.

• **August 4-14;** new church start; Lubashevka. Contact: Joe Anderson, P.O. Box 274, Boyle, MS 38730. Phone: (662) 843-4405. Deadline: June 1.

• **August 4-14;** new church start; Savron. Contact: Ken Anderson, P.O. Box 65, Clinton, MS 39060-0065. Phone: (601) 924-9912. E-mail: parkway2@meta3.net. Deadline: June 1.

• **August 18-28;** new church start, medical; Veleka Mehalovka. Contact: Bruce Jolly, 310 Highway 35, Collins, MS 39428. Phone: (601) 765-4689. E-mail: covjeff@netdoor.com. Deadline: June 15.

• **August 18-28;** construction; Odessa. Contact: Paul McGehee, 116 Briarwood Drive, Senatobia, MS 38668. Phone: (662) 562-4541. E-mail: pmcgehee@gmi.net. Deadline: June 15.



• **August 18-28;** new church start; Kotovsk. Contact: Jerry Owen, 2167 Cleary Road, Florence, MS 39073-8848. Phone: (601) 355-2348. E-mail: witness4him1@juno.com. Deadline: June 15.

• **August 30-September 11;** new church start; Balta. Contact: John Perkins, P.O. Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632. Phone: (662) 429-5033. E-mail: nwbapt@bellsouth.net. Deadline: June 28.

• **August 31-September 8;** pastors' conference; Odessa region. Contact: Ken Lyle, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Phone: (601) 292-3398. E-mail: knjlyle103@aol.com. Deadline: June 29.

• **September 14-23;** new church start, medical; Sheriaev. Contact: Ken West, P.O. Box 4511, Greenville, MS 38704. Phone: (662) 335-2862. E-mail: WCBA@tecinfo.com. Deadline: July 13.

• **September 21-October 2;** new church start; Nikolaevka. Contact: Kiely Young, P.O. Box 10254, Gulfport, MS 39505. Phone: (228) 831-9236. E-mail: yg.ent@mciworld.com. Deadline: July 21.

• **October 5-14;** medical; Odessa region. Contact: Norman Bailey, 307 Jackson Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39042. Phone: (601) 544-1794. E-mail: nlb021752@aol.com. Deadline: August 3.

YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED
— The Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is joining the Kindness Foundation to enlist 25 high school-age young people to participate in a June 16-30 summer camp for Ukrainian young people like the group above. The camps are designed to foster international contacts between young people with a strong morality-based lifestyles. Six adults have been enlisted to serve as chaperones. Cost is \$1,315 per person. To receive a volunteer application or to request more information, contact team leader Twila Windham, Route 2 Box 320-B, Mize, MS 39116. Phone: (601) 733-2242. E-mail: twindham@yahoo.com. Deadline is April 13. (BR special photo)

Homecoming

Bond, Philadelphia: April 29; 11 a.m. service with a message by T. C. Pinson; lunch will be served.

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GNXSC.

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Clue: G = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Eleven.

Staff changes

Macedonia Church, Mendon, has called Marjorie Rushing, a native of Pennsylvania, as minister of youth effective Feb. 21. Rushing previously served at Goodwater Church, Magee.

North Winona Church, Winona, has called Ed McDaniel as interim pastor effective Feb. 10. He previously served at Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland.

REVIVAL DATES

Friendship, McComb: March 23-25; Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; speakers are Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Friday, 7 p.m.; Jerry Smith, Summit, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Barry Ward, Magnolia, Sunday, 11 a.m.; and Kent Cochran, Brookhaven, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Ed May, McComb, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

First, Ridgeland: March 25-28; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken Hester, evangelist; music by Bridges and Blake; Grant Arinder, pastor.

Emmanuel, Laurel: Campers on Mission; March 18-21; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; discipleship training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

North Winona, Winona: March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Wilkinson, Andalusia, Ala., evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, One Way Ministries, music; Ed McDaniel, pastor.

Parkway, Houston: March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Duck Hill (Montgomery): March 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon meal and devotion, and 7 p.m.; S. A. (Sonny) Adkins, director, evangelism department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Ken Talley, Amory, music; Travis Gray, pastor.

Holly (Alcorn): March 25-28; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Andy Bryan of Andy Bryan Ministries, Headland, Ala., evangelist and music; Keith Dowden, pastor.

Glade, Laurel: March 25-28; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mark Byrd, Laurel, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music; Mike Thompson, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, Liberty: March 23-25; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Shelby Smith Sr., Gulfshores, Ala., retired missionary, evangelist; Sherwin Smith, Chattanooga, music; Shean Smith, pastor.

Goss, Columbia: March 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, director, stewardship department, Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Dudley Williamson, Columbia, music; David Laird, pastor.

Thompson, Smithdale: youth revival; March 16-18; services, 6:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday; 11 a.m. Sunday; Chip Price, speaker; Josh Crain, worship and praise; Mark White, youth minister.

Parkway (Scott): March 29-April 1; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; Bill Hutto, Oaks of Righteousness Ministry, evangelist; Tony Massey, Parkway Church, music; Jim Pender, pastor.

Siloam, West Point: March 18-21; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, Pontotoc, speaker; Jeff Short, Nettleton, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

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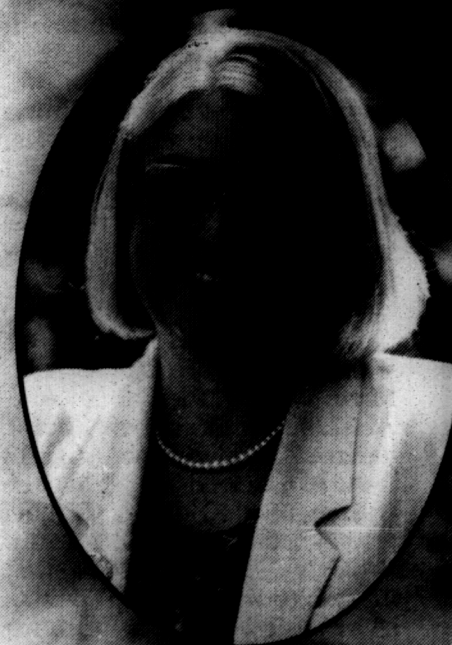
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The cost of the luncheon is \$5 per person; reservations are
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THANK YOU

Editor:

On a Tuesday night, in August, at Sardis Church in Winston County during a revival meeting as the song "Oh Why Not Tonight" was being sung, my precious Mom, Maggie Lee Carr Crowell trusted Jesus and was saved. She was a young lady at the time.

On Feb. 15 at about 12:05 a.m., Mom went to be with our Lord who saved her. The Lord let her live 93 years.

On her behalf and on behalf of all the William Minor and Maggie Lee Carr Crowell family, I want to say thanks to all who in any way at any time in the sight of our Lord befriended Mom.

Grady Crowell
Quitman

NO BLACK OR WHITE

Editor:

We all know that one of the most controversial issues of the day is the debate on our Mississippi flag, and of course

people on both sides of the issue make valid points. What we all need is a little truth. God's word is truth. So does the Bible have anything to say about our flag? I think it does. In 1 Cor. 8, the Apostle Paul is addressing whether it is wrong to eat the meat that had been sacrificed to idols or not. In this passage he introduces a very important principle, which is the principle of considering my own action's effect on other people. If my actions cause my brother to stumble then I need to change. We all need to learn this principle and apply it to our flag dilemma.

Some may be wondering at which group of people or which side of the issue I am aiming this letter. God's principles are universal. The attitude of being sensitive and considerate of my brother is a virtue that we all need to acquire. Gal. 3:28 says, "There is no Jew nor Gentile, no free nor slave, no male nor female, for we are all one in Christ." In Christ there is no black or white, just blood red!

Brian Parkman
Pulaski

WHERE'S SCRIPTURE?

Editor:

Several years ago one of the fast food chains asked, "Where's the beef?" concerning their competitor's hamburgers. After reading Carl Ford's and Wendell Ladner's attack on Jimmy Porter for his (February 1 guest opinion) on our state flag, I have to ask, "Where's the Scripture?" Both men used very humanistic arguments for wanting to keep the current banner and did not offer any Scripture reference to support their arguments.

Ford said he was offended with wanting to change the flag and wondered if the book of Philemon would next be removed. I suspect he selected Philemon because it refers to Onesimus as a slave. Ford should read the entire letter. Paul appealed to Philemon's love of all the saints which worked to bless other (v. 5), and that he (Paul) had become a spiritual father to Onesimus (v. 10). Paul appealed to Philemon to do good "not by compulsion but of your own free will" (v. 14). He said

Onesimus is "no longer a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother" (v. 16). Finally, Paul told Philemon he should "do even more than I say" (v. 21).

Paul was most concerned about changing a past of slavery into a future of showing real Christian concern. What would happen in Mississippi if churchgoers adopted Paul's teachings in Philemon and united under a common Christian banner which sought equality for all?

Steve Owens
Brandon

THANKS, MBMC

Editor:

I was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and was told that I needed surgery. Mississippi Baptist Medical Center was my choice of hospital. I could not have found a hospital this side of heaven that could have shown more concern and have done a more efficient job of caring for my needs. Just a word of praise where I feel praise is due.

Robert Sanderson, int. pastor
Sharon First Church, Laurel



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Blue Mountain College (BMC) Chorale will be taking their Spring Concert Tour March 21-25. The 35-member chorale is under the direction of Larry W. Newell, director of choral activities and voice at BMC. The Chorale will travel in Mississippi and Louisiana with seven performances scheduled during the five-day trip. The 2000-2001 concert season concludes on April 26 with the Spring Choral Concert, featuring the Chorale and the handbell choir. For additional information on the tour or concert, call Newell at (662) 685-4771, ext. 163.

Callie Anne Carruth, a cum laude graduate of William Carey College with a degree in religion, was awarded the University Ministerial Scholarship at Truett Seminary at Baylor University in Texas. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Jo Ann Carruth of McComb.

Blue Mountain College will host the annual ministerial alumni meeting on March 30. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Paschal Student Center. Wayne King will deliver the message during chapel and Kermit McGregor, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will speak during the 11:45 a.m. program.

Winter School of Music at William Carey College (WCC) will present the following guitar concerts in March and April. Performances in the Lucile Parker Gallery are mezzo-soprano Tanja Simic and guitarist Miroslav Loncar, March 20, 7 p.m.; The Cavatina Duo, March 26, 7 p.m.; and Winter School of Music Chamber Music Recital, April 9, 4:30 p.m. On April 23 the WCC Jazz Guitar Ensemble Concert will be held in the Dumas Smith Auditorium at 7 p.m. The Miroslav Loncar Jazz Quartet will perform in concert May 1 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. For more information or to order tickets call (601) 582-6175.

Michael Gurt, concert pianist, will be presented in a recital on March 23, in Aven Auditorium on the campus of

Mississippi College (MC) at 7:30 p.m. Gurt is associate professor of piano and keyboard division chairman at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. He is also the head of the piano department at the Sewanee Summer Music Center, and he serves as piano chairman of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association. For more information, call MC music department at (601) 925-3440.

William Carey College (WCC) student Matthew Smith, McComb, received a first place award for dramatic interpretation and a top novice award in duo interpretation with his partner Ebony Hardy, Hattiesburg, at the Mardi Gras Classic held recently at the Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Smith also won two sixth place awards in program oral interpretation and poetry. Samantha Cottrell, Crystal Springs, placed third in dramatic interpretation and seventh in poetry. Emanuel Buckley, Hattiesburg, received a fifth place award for poetry. Amanda Bass, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., and Jessica Pinion, Florence, finished the Novice Parliamentary Debate round with a 3-3 record in the open division. WCC team is currently ranked third in the nation.

The second annual Carrie Byrd Fast Pitch Softball Camp will be held May 31-June 2 on the William Carey College (WCC) Hattiesburg campus from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. The camp will feature Carrie Byrd, WCC head coach and camp director; and Heather Austin, assistant coach. Camp activities include detailed instruction in the areas of pitching and catching, defense, base running, and scrimmages. The camp is open to girls of all ages and skill levels. The camp will be held at the Timberton Softball Complex located on Helveston Road adjacent to the WCC campus. Late registration and check-in will be held on the site. Applications may be obtained by calling (601) 582-6431 or (601) 545-2998 or write Carrie Byrd, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Ave. Box 185, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

William Carey College's spring open house 2001 will be held March 23 and 24 on the Hattiesburg campus. Registration will begin in the student center at 5 p.m. on Friday and in the Thomas Fine Arts Building at 9 a.m. on Saturday. A complimentary lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. For additional information, contact the admissions office at (800) 962-5991 ext. 103 or (601) 582-6103.

Blue Mountain College Alumnae Banquet will be held March 20 at 7 p.m. in Ray Dining Hall. Tickets may be purchased in the president's office by calling (662) 685-4771, ext. 131.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Knowing Jesus cares

Mark 4:35-39; 5:6-9, 15-20

By Lori Clendinning

Warning! A tornado has been spotted in your community! Quickly, you head for the safest spot within your home or storm shelter. Huddled there, you worry what the deadly, threatening winds will do to your property and loved ones.

Then, the electricity goes out. The storm relentlessly pounds against the roof, walls, and windows. Sounds of shattered glass and broken tree limbs assault your senses and you desperately cry out to God for help.

At that dark and frightening moment, what do you expect him to do? Certainly, you want protection for you and your family from the tornado's destruction. You pray you'll come through the storm untouched; your expectations include the hope that God's

hand will preserve your lives.

But do you also believe that God can do the unexpected? Undoubtedly, at the exact moment of your cry for help, God could destroy the tornado, instantaneously stopping its deadly force by causing it to completely disappear.

Two violent storms are the focus of this week's lesson: first, in Mark 4:35-39, a furious thunderstorm threatened to overturn a boat upon which Jesus and his disciples were passengers; second, in Mark 5:1-20, a storm raged within a demon-possessed man.

Jesus exerted authority over the thunderstorm and the raging demons; both forces immediately responded to Jesus. Each miracle had tremendous impact on those to whom it happened, resulting in deeper faith and



Clendinning

understanding that Jesus' authority and ability to affect things supernaturally comes directly from God.

Mark records that sometime after sunset, Jesus, exhausted from teaching and healing all day, spoke to his disciples and proposed they cross Lake Galilee from the Galilean shore. They headed eastward toward the Perea side, where it is presumed Jesus wanted to preach in predominantly Gentile areas that he had not yet visited.

The boat was most likely a fishing vessel, shallow and small enough to be dragged upon the shore. Perhaps Peter and the other disciples who had fishing experience took the helm, steering the boat and transporting their sleeping teacher safely to the other side.

Imagine their dismay when a tremendous squall arose that was beyond their seaworthy capabilities. High waves and wind played havoc with the little vessel as the thunderstorm raged.

Were the disciples expecting Jesus to help bail water or were they merely chastising him for not caring about their impending doom when they cried out in verse 38, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

Awaking, Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea, saying, "Quiet! Be still!" Scholars say the literal translation of this might be "Stop this noise! Be as though you were muzzled." The words "rebuked" and "be muzzled" are the same verbs used in Mark 1:25 to describe Jesus' casting out a demon in Capernaum.

Upon reaching Gerasene, Jesus spoke with the same authority and released the demon-possessed man from his internal storm. Self-mutilating and tortured, this man lived in a cemetery: cave-like rooms hewn out of rock for burials. Alienated from his people, he was unmanageable, breaking bonds used to restrain him.

Recognizing Jesus' authority, the demons immediately flung the man at Jesus in a fearful fit. Determining that the man was afflicted with multiple spirits, Jesus gave the demons permis-

sion to enter a herd of swine that was feeding nearby. Although the demons had controlled the man's behavior, they were helpless to stop the pigs from flinging themselves to their deaths from a steep bank into the lake.

Fully restored to his senses, the man begged Jesus to take him along. However, Jesus gave a firm "no" to his request, asking that he return to his family and countrymen to share with them "how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (v. 19).

Likewise, that we may be a witness to those around us, Jesus' answer to our requests is sometimes "no." Oftentimes, he answers our cries for help in such a way that we are amazed to realize he has the power, authority, and ability to change our circumstances supernaturally.

Whether Jesus immediately dissipates the storms of our lives, or allows us to pass through them, he is ever-present, caring for us in supernatural, unexpected ways.

Clendinning is a former newspaper editor and a member of Park Place Church, Pearl.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Crises in ministry: call

1 Samuel 1:1-3:21

By Jim Burnett

Does God speak to people today as he did in biblical times? How does one know when the Lord is talking to him or her? After receiving God's instruction what should one do with it? What are the results of obeying God's Word? All of these questions will be answered in this week's lesson.

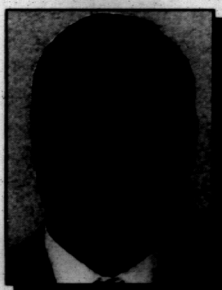
For the next three weeks we will study the biblical account of a man by the name of Samuel who had a three-dimensional ministry in Israel serving as judge, priest, and prophet.

We will look specifically at Samuel's response to God's call upon his life, the spiritual renewal that took place in Israel under his leadership, and how Christians can seek

and follow God's leadership in the midst of change.

Listening to God (3:10). The sensitivity of Samuel to God is incredible. As this youth lay in the temple, the Lord spoke his name. Because Samuel had not yet personally experienced the Lord, God's voice was mistaken for Eli's, his mentor. Three times Samuel ran to assist Eli who had not called him. Finally Eli discerned that God was communicating with Samuel.

Often Christians are tempted to look at Samuel's temple encounter with God as something rare and never to be repeated. But throughout the Bible, we see God's children listening and receiving specific instructions from the Lord. Can Christians today hear God?



Burnett

God speaks to his children in various ways. Sometimes he communicates to us through other believers. Other times it's through prayer and sincere Bible study that our hearts are divinely guided. The Holy Spirit can also speak to us directly. But no matter what method or catalyst God uses to attempt communication, the prerequisite for receiving such a message is an attentive ear.

Scripture reveals Eli's eyes had grown dim, but his spiritual ears had also become deaf to the voice of God as indicated by the delay in discerning God's communication with Samuel. How sensitive are you to God's voice and his instructions? Do you have ears of a deer like Samuel did or eyes of a bat like Eli?

Receiving God's Word (3:11-14). God called Samuel to serve him as a prophet. Samuel would now be God's mouthpiece and spiritual leader of Israel. Eli, unfortunately, had

forfeited his position as priest to Israel by neglecting to reprove his sons for their wickedness in the priesthood. God withdrew his anointing from Eli and raised up Samuel as the new judge, priest, and prophet of Israel.

I believe God calls every Christian for the purpose of bringing glory to his name. But we also have specific callings, special ministries for which we are gifted. But what does God do when we refuse to answer his call and use our spiritual gifts for his purpose? He finds someone else who will.

Obedying God's call (3:15-18). Can you imagine having to deliver the pink slip to your boss who had taken you in as a three-year-old and raised, fed, and mentored you? Essentially God told Samuel that Eli was fired and Samuel was now his replacement. Samuel hesitated to tell Eli, the High Priest, the bad news, but Eli pressed him.

As a pastor I can relate to Samuel's dilemma. Often God puts on my heart a word of reproof or correction that I

must deliver to my congregation. The temptation is to steer clear of the uncomfortable, the controversial, but I fear God more than man. Consequently, obeying God's call is not optional. Let me encourage you, Christian, to be true to God's leading. If you are a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, or serve in some other leadership capacity, don't hesitate to obey God's call to encourage, correct, reprove, and instruct.

Continuing in God's service (3:19-21). Samuel's confirmation as prophet of Israel came via the undeniable activity of God in and through his life. God continues to bless receptive hearts and willing bodies. He is looking for boys and girls and men and women who will serve him.

Are you available for God's service? And are you willing to become his lips, feet, and hands? I hope so, because there is no greater joy in life than to serve the living Lord.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and photographs can be published one week prior to the deadline for submission. The deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Bro. & Mrs. Tom F. Rayburn
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Long
Bruce Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. David Denson
Mrs. Elona Sams
Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-
Columbus
Velma Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Crane
Mrs. Beulah Upton
Alathean SSC, FBC-Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Walters
Mrs. Grace Faulkner
James Woods
Mr. Jonathan Miller

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2001 MEMORIALS

Mr. W. P. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Baker
Mrs. Frances Aiken
Mrs. Floyd E. Fuqua Jr.
Mr. Solomon Alman
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse E. Brock
Pete & Bessie Saway
Beth Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn V. Lingle &
Family
John Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Sessums
David Aronsohn
Ms. Katie Holden
Clifton Dwayne Ashley
Ms. Margaret H. Durham
Mrs. Lela Aultman
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Round
Dr. Bill Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Sarah Lynn Ray Ayers
Ms. Shirley Pyle
Mrs. Hugh "Boots" Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn V. Lingle &
Family
Mrs. Lyn Knight
Mrs. Carolyn Woodward
Mrs. Lloyd W. Kitchens
Mr. J. B. Baker
Mr. & Mrs. David White
Mr. Lamont Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Trey Whitley
Mrs. Mary Barton
Carlisle SSC, FBC-Grenada
James M. Bateman
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Lackey
Catherine Beard
Mrs. Marcene Foster
Herbert Beck
Mr. Robert L. Mahon
Richard Belding
Hopewell Baptist Church

Roy H. Bell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour M.
Lipscomb
Verdell Benison
Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Morgan
M. A. Bond
Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson
Charles Boscareno
Nancy's SSC, Spring Hill BC-
Wesso
Mrs. Marcene Foster
Jimmie Bowen
Dorcus SSC, Bowmar Ave BC-
Vicksburg
Ruby C. Bowlin
Dorcus SSC, Bowmar Ave BC-
Vicksburg
Mrs. Doris A. Hart
Rena Boykin
Mr. Robert L. Mahon
Jean C. Boyles
Ms. Earline N. Ainsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Gene M. Coxwell
Mr. W. O. Bozeman, Jr.
Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard
Mr. Elton Braddock
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge
Mavis Bradley
Temple Baptist Church
Mrs. Ruth Day Breakfield
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Mr. & Mrs. Don Rawls &
Donald
Mrs. Curtis L. Johnson
John Brice
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Witchen
Mr. H. P. Brooks
The Oscar Persons Family
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Broome
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wadsworth
Mrs. Doris Broussard
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons
Mr. Paul C. "Clint" Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Box
Mrs. Margaret Brown
Lois Butler
Bob & Willie B. Minter
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Bryan
Mrs. Alyce R. Clark
Mr. Warren Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Emily Bultman
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B.
Lampton
Mrs. Irma Burgess
Mrs. Joyce B. Hull
Mrs. Ruby Burrow
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Pace
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Glen Polk
Barbara Ann Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Rimes
Mrs. Edna Butler
Mrs. Guy B. Young
Charles Cahill
Mrs. Dannie Brenholtz
Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry
Julie Caraway
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle D. Richard
Mrs. Betty Jo McAlum Carter
L. M. Berry and Company
Guy & Pauline Coucy
Kenneth, Jeanette, & Tyler
Coucy
Pepsi Americas, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Allen
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Pilgrim
Mr. & Mrs. George F. Warren Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Halford
Ms. Geraldine W. Ammon
Dr. & Mrs. Chester W. Masterson
Ms. Donna Wilkinson
Mrs. Geraldine N. Wall
Mrs. Rena L. Casey
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Mr. Jimmy Catledge
The Clifton Porter Family
Mrs. Grace Porter
The Sanford Holliday Family
The Jerry Graham Family
Donna Chapman
Ms. Patricia E. Robertson
Danny Chrestman
Cris Bryan
Mrs. Geneva Clark
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
William C. Clark
Helen, Joe & Joyce Snider
Cheryl Cody
IRS, Oak Lane Professional
Center
Faye Collins
Ms. Maida Stegall & Family
Annie Cone
Woodlawn Baptist Church
Charlie Conrad
Emery & Francis Bennett
Erma Burt
Audrey, Dear
Glenn & Ruth Miles
Jean Stepp
Janet Bryagg

Internet becomes unique symbol of purity

Students see potential for sharing Christ

SANTEE, Calif. (BP) — While the focus for many in the aftermath of campus shootings in Santee is on the 15-year-old assailant, some students see the tragedy as an opportunity for sharing with friends the hope found in Jesus Christ, according to a student evangelism specialist for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Scott Grissom, who facilitates campus evangelism efforts on secondary school campuses, said students at Santana High School already are organizing a worship service Saturday evening to focus on seeking God's direction. Grissom was in Santee this week meeting with Christian students and church youth leaders.

"The event Saturday night is being initiated and led by students, and that's consistent with what God's doing on campus," Grissom said.

"I think what will come out of this," he added, "is that among some students there is a remnant that is eager to strike while the iron is hot and say to their friends, 'We're not immortal. Life is short and our lives could end without warning, and when it does are we going to be ready to face our creator.'"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Often a forum for racy exchanges, the Internet became a symbol of purity Feb. 14 for thousands of teens who logged on to take an electronic stand for sexual morality.

In the 47 hours it took Valentine's Day to rise in New Zealand and fall in Hawaii, 31,338 teenagers pledged to God and their future mates they would abstain from sex until marriage.

"We were really pleased with the response from teens on this," said Paul Turner, spokesperson for True Love Waits.

"On Valentine's Day 2001, 31,000-plus students made a commitment to live a life of purity. A lot of kids' lives will be spared much heartache because they have made that decision."

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention sponsors the international campaign, which urges teenagers to choose a sex-free lifestyle until they enter a biblical marriage relationship.

Seize the Net, the latest incarnation among several annual pushes to interest teens

in sexual purity, called for young people to enter the True Love Waits webpage (www.truelovewaits.com) and sign an online pledge card to remain abstinent until marriage.

Teens from South America to Asia and California to Maine took part in the Internet-based crusade that allowed young people to join forces with others of like-minded values, Turner said.

211,000 True Love Waits cards covered the National Mall in Washington, D.C.; in 1996, more than 350,000 cards were stacked to the roof of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta; and in 1999, teens carried 100,000 pledge cards across the mile-long Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

National True Love Waits leaders estimate more than one million teens have signed cards pledging sexual abstinence until marriage.

The covenant cards signed online Feb. 14 by teens state: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

According to organizers in the True Love Waits headquarters at LifeWay in Nashville, teens in churches across America participated in True Love Waits celebrations on Valentine's Day with rallies, parties, and ring-and-commitment ceremonies.



Those who did were able to see the results on Feb. 15 and download a participation certificate that stated: "On Valentine's Day 2001, [teen's name] and 31,338 members of my generation Seized the Net to make a True Love Waits pledge to sexual purity."

"The Internet is a great way to unite young people all over the world — people who have never even met each other — for the cause of sexual purity," he said.

LifeWay launched the sexual abstinence campaign in April 1993. In 1994, more than

LifeWay sends counseling tapes to Santee school

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources has shipped nearly 2,000 CDs containing taped counseling sessions to a high school in California where a teenager killed two students and wounded 13 others.

"An employee is picking up the 24-hour Counselor CDs at a warehouse and taking them to the airport where they should arrive in California this afternoon," Barry Campbell

of LifeWay's Pastor-Staff Leadership Section, said Wednesday, March 7.

Campbell said he hopes the taped counseling session, Someone Close to Me Has Died, will help some of the students at Santana High School in Santee, Calif., deal with their grief.

"I know it's too late to do anything about the tragedy that has already occurred. But maybe these CDs, especially the session I'm Thinking About Killing Some People, will help the students understand what goes on in the heads of young people who commit these sort of crimes and prevent something like this from happening in the future," Campbell said. "We also hope the CDs can help the students deal with their grief."

The 24-Hour Counselor CDs provide immediate helps for teens facing some of life's toughest challenges, Campbell said. The information is also available on LifeWay's Internet site at www.lifeway.com/24hour/.

Some of the sessions on the CD and website are: My Friend May Commit Suicide, My Girlfriend May Be Pregnant, I Was Raped on a Date, I No Longer Want to Live, I'm Tempted to Go too Far on a Date, I Get Depressed Often, and I Might Want To Join A Gang.

These topics were among the

most frequently downloaded from LifeWay's 24-Hour Counselor website and "obviously touch a nerve among our teenagers today," Campbell said.

The session, I'm Thinking About Killing Some People, was downloaded 120 times in the month of February, according to LifeWay Web statistics.

Statistics on the CD reveal that the number of teenagers arrested for murder has tripled over the last 15 years. The CD also says 13 children and youth are murdered each day, 16 youth are killed each day with firearms and the United States has the highest homicide rate between 15-24 years of age in the world.

It is reported that 2 million teenagers carry knives, guns, clubs or razors, and as many as 135,000 take them to school.

During the taped session, I'm Thinking About Killing Some People, Tony Rankin, a counselor from Nashville, Tenn., advises a teen named "Troy" on his desire to hurt others. The desire of a young person to kill or hurt someone usually stems from being mad at people, being hurt by them, or being rejected by someone who really matters to them, Rankin said on the CD.

According to Rankin, teenagers who've threatened to kill others sometimes:

- have extensive knowledge about weapons. They know how they work, what kind of ammunition they use, how deadly they are at certain ranges and how to obtain them.

- ignore their rage. They stay irritated all the time, are constantly looking for ways to get back at people, lose their temper often, are vindictive, and defy adult authority almost all of the time.



SANTEE'S SORROW — A memorial outside Santana High School, Santee, Calif., commemorates two students killed by a classmate March 5. (Photo by Zuma Press)